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January 28, 1996

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.
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In the Matter of
Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming
MM Docket No. 95-176

NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Comments of Mary Clepper In The Notice Of Inquiry Regarding
Closed Captioning and Video Description

To The Commission:

Mary Clepper is writing in response to your request for comments in the "Notice of Inquiry", FCC 95-484, in the above-captioned proceeding, released December 4, 1995.

The Commission seeks to assess the current availability, cost, and uses of closed captioning and video description, and to assess what further Commission actions may be appropriate to promote these services. It also seeks comment on the appropriate means of promoting the services wider use in programming delivered by television broadcasters, cable operators, and other video programming providers.

As a person with a profound hearing loss, I would like to give you some of my views. Without captioned programs, I have no access to television. There are no hearing devices available that brings words in clear enough for me to understand. This leaves me quite out of many things, making me withdrawn and avoiding many conversations. This in turn causes me depression, causes other people to believe I am not interested, and even reply when I ask: "Oh, it was really nothing you would be interested in, so you did not miss much." Yes, people really get tired of being asked, so I usually say nothing. I am happy to be a member of SHHH. Through SHHH's concerns and representation for me at the Federal level, I am aware of the importance of FCC's role in addressing this matter.

(PARAGRAPH 11)

With captions and descriptions I can join in with others, knowing what was on the news, the Presidential speeches, entertainment shows, and etc. I can be a much more informed person and mentally, a happier person. Others don't have to feel they should not watch when I am there, either. This makes for a happier family and more friends.

(PARAGRAPH 12)

There are other uses that some like my husband and I have found very useful. It is more relaxing than a blaring television, a ringing door bell can be heard, as well as a telephone ringing, a baby crying, not disturbing some one else in the room trying to read or do other work, while sitting with a sleeping ill person, also a patient in the hospital won't disturb others in the room that don't care for TV. Or maybe even not able to tolerate the noise from that TV.

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(PARAGRAPHS 14-16)

The local news has very few times the whole half hour is captioned. Often the beginning can run as long as ten minutes with no caption. More often then not, the caption will start on one particular subject, stop, the run fast forward with the reporter already on another subject. By the time it catches up, there could be two to four subjects the viewer has lost out on. The weather here in Southwest Florida is not captioned. I feel especially that it should be during hurricane season and during sever storm weather.

(PARAGRAPHS 28-31)

I don't feel that any thing I watch should be exempted. When you exempt one program or one station, that is when others expect the same. The same would be true when just part of a program receives exemption. Even sports are better understood with captions.

(PARAGRAPH 33)

Garbled captions do occur and may last only a short time or the entire program after it starts. There are some times a program with closed caption sign (CC) that have no caption during the whole program.

My final comments on captioning: Weather reports are very important to be captioned, religious programs, news, president's speeches along with sports and entertainment programs, To me I have no access to any of those things without captioning, which really sets all deaf and hard of hearing people back to the years when few found a job of their preference, led a good social life, but instead withdrew into themselves.

I am in great hope that some day when I sit down to watch T.V. that caption will be there for me and all others needing for hearing and all others that want it for other reasons of their own.

Respectfully Submitted



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